

from voting a straight party ticket in order to benefit GOP candidates. The mailer said, "Notice to Voters. Do not vote using the Straight Party Button on your polling machine. This button cancels out any individual votes cast. In the past election, this button deprived many candidates of the votes they earned from people like you." In New Mexico voters are able to "cast a straight party ticket and then vote for individual candidates of the other party," the Las Cruces Sun News reported. Denise Lamb of the Bureau of Elections said, "its despicable that people would try to misinform voters to win an election."

PENNSYLVANIA: GOP CONGRESSMAN ISSUED POLL WATCHER PACKET WITH WRONG INFORMATION.

According to a Lebanon Daily News Editorial, "[Rep. George] Gekas, a Harrisburg Republican, has distributed among county officials and volunteers an 18-page manual that includes a section about 'challenging a voter.' That's right: Gekas volunteers aren't just going to challenge absentee ballots, but are going to try to block some people who show up at the polls from casting votes. Even more worrisome is the legal advice that 'challenging a voter' offers to GOP volunteers. The Gekas pamphlet contains some legal errors that may encourage Republican volunteers to lodge false and misleading protests against voters' rights. . . . The Gekas poll-watching strategy constitutes an embarrassment for the GOP. Republicans seem determined to frighten voters rather than competed in the arena of ideas. Gekas and his allies should disavow their planned attempt to discourage people from exercising the federal franchise. They would do better to welcome voters to the polls."

MARYLAND: MAILER CIRCULATED TO AFRICAN-AMERICANS SPREAD FALSE VOTING INFORMATION

In Baltimore, MD as unsigned flier circulated in African-American neighborhoods spread false information aimed at suppressing voter turnout. The flier read: "Urgent Notice. Come out to vote on November 6th. Before you come to vote make sure you pay your parking tickets, motor vehicle tickets, overdue rent and most important any warrants."

Mr. President, the Republican actions during the last election are not in keeping with the legacy of Martin Luther King.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 4:30, with the time equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Is there objection? If there is no objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have spoken to Senator BYRD and Senator

DASCHLE, and Senator BYRD had a meeting with Senator STEVENS. I think we are at a point real quickly where the two leaders will come to the floor with Senator BYRD and Senator STEVENS and do something on the appropriations process. I would alert everybody, they should not plan any real long speeches—my friend said he has not—because I think we are going to be able to go, pretty soon, to the appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

COMMEMORATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, "What are you doing for others?" It is in the spirit of this simple question that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., lived and died. Can you imagine if every person started each day with such a challenge? If before we thought about what clothes we would wear or what food we would eat or what meetings we had scheduled, we asked ourselves, "What are you doing for others?"

These weren't just words to Dr. King. He walked the walk. And his walk often took place in neighborhoods where he was stoned by angry crowds, in jail cells where he was imprisoned, and in cities where he was despised. But every morning he woke up with the attitude that he was here to serve others, and he believed that everyone was capable of doing the same. He once said in a sermon that, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." The only requirements to serve, according to King, were ". . . a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love . . .".

For the 39 years that Dr. King graced this world, he led by example. And for the almost 35 years since his death, his legacy has continued to light a path to love, tolerance, reconciliation, and equality.

As well lit as he left that path, we still continue to stumble. That is why celebrating Dr. King's mission, even if just one day a year, is so necessary. We must remind ourselves how important it is for us to keep working toward a Nation that promotes opportunity for all while celebrating our unique differences.

Race relations in American have come a long way since almost 40 years ago when Dr. King penned his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" after demonstrating against the segregation of restaurants. He wrote:

We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights. Perhaps it is easy for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, "Wait." But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mothers and fathers at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim * * * when you take a cross-country drive and find it necessary to sleep night after night in the uncomfortable corners of your automobile because no motel will accept you * * * when you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading "white"

and "colored," then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait.

A lot has changed since then, but in 2003, Dr. King's work is still not complete. Opportunity is not available to all, and we have not fully succeeded at respecting each other's differences.

As we honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we are reminded that he lived to love others and serve others as a pastor, a champion of equality, and a leader of freedom.

He lost his life while on a mission to leave his children, and all our children, a better world. We owe it to him to continue down that path to love, tolerance, reconciliation, and equality, for only when we reach the end will his work have been completed.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I came to the floor to discuss two issues—one, the matter of civil rights and, secondly, the important matter of economic stimulus. I indicated that today was a watershed moment for this administration. They had to make a choice and, as they made that choice, they would be making history.

Well, I am now told they have made the choice. They have decided to side with those opponents of civil rights and diversity in coming down in opposition to the Michigan case. I am troubled and saddened by the news. This administration, just a month ago, indicated they were going to demonstrate their commitment to civil rights, a commitment to diversity. They were going to show by their actions their intentions and their resolve to continue to provide meaningful opportunity to minorities in this country. Once again, today, the administration has said it is as clearly by their actions as anyone can that they will continue to side with those opposed to civil rights and opposed to diversity in this country.

I don't know how the Supreme Court ultimately will decide, but I do know this: Unless we take real action, unless we show real leadership, unless we show by our actions that indeed we want to see real opportunity and meaningful respect for diversity in this country, nothing will change.

On occasion after occasion, in spite of their rhetoric, the administration has shown by their actions an insensitivity to civil rights and diversity. They showed it by renominating Judge Pickering; they have shown it by their inaction and apparent opposition to